

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein, during decompression, non-continuous tone data with a high spatial resolution in one dimension is decompressed into a high spatial resolution bitword-map with reference to information indicating the direction of the edge within the image data.

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7. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein, decompressing the data from the compressed bitword comprises:

referencing a segmentation bit of the bitword to determine whether the bitword contains non-continuous tone data;

referencing a direction bit to determine whether the direction of the edge located in spaced relationship to a first and a second pixel;

referencing a three-bit value indicative of the first pixel; and

referencing a three-bit value indicative of the second pixel.

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15. (Amended) A decompression system for decompressing image data, the system comprising:

a decompressor that decompresses a data bitword-map to provide high spatial resolution data containing non-continuous tone data using extra resolution across edges of marks, and that decompresses the data bitword-map to provide low spatial resolution continuous tone data.

16. (Amended) The decompression system of claim 15, further comprising an image forming device, wherein the decompression system is incorporated in the image forming device.

17. (Amended) The decompression system of claim 16, wherein the image forming device is one of at least a facsimile machine, a laser printer, an inkjet printer, a digital copier or a full-width-print bar printer.